THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Under the Foeign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 political parties are not permitted to receive foreign contribution.

Extending of IRDP loans by UBI officials posted at Raniganj branch of West Dinajpur in West Bengal

2967. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aware that the bank officials of the United Bank of India, Raniganj branch in the district of West Dinajpur, West Bengal are discriminating in the matter of extending IRDP loans on the basis of political affiliation;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action is being taken against such officials who are responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not received any complaint against bank officials of United Bank of India, Ranigunj Branch in West Bengal regarding discrimination in the matter of extending IRDP loans on the basis of political affiliation. However, complaints against banks including those relating to nonfinancing under IRDP, as and when received, are taken up with the concerned banks for appropriate action. Corrective measures are taken by banks in respect of complaints, with a view to redress the grievances.

Evasion of customs duty by Bharat Krishak Samaj

2968. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to order an enquiry into the alleged evasion of customs duties and violation of foreign exchange regulations by Bharat Krishak Samaj; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a)and (b). Available reports do not indicate evasion of customs duty or violation of foreign exchange regulations by Bharat Krishak Samaj.

Convictions of persons arrested in Drug Smuggling

2969. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of acquittal and convictions of persons arrested in the drug smuggling cases in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras during 1988-89 and 1989-90 till date;

(b) what are the reasons for low percentage of convictions in smuggling cases; and

(c) what measures have been taken tc remove the shortcomings in the investigation process to secure maximum convictions in drug smuggling cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN TE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJI PANJA): (a) to (c). No separate dat in respect of convictions and acquitta in drug smuggling cases for the four me tropolitan cities is maintained. While system of quick reporting on seizure, a rest, etc., in the prescribed format h devised, reports from all enforceme agencies are not received. In the circu stances, information in respect of conv

tions and acquittals available with the Narcotics Control Bureau is not complete.

As per information available with the Narcotics Control Bureau, of 14,402 persons prosecuted in the whole of India under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 since its enactment in 1985, cases have been decided in respect of 2,667 persons, of whom 1,326 had been convicted and 1,341 acquitted. The percentage of conviction and acquittal works out to 49.71 per cent and 50.28 per cent respectively. As all cases where judgements had been pronounced might not have been reported to the Bureau, the percentage of conviction|acquittal, out of the total number of cases decided, could be still higher. Nevertheless the court proceedings tend to be proteracting and the number of cases pending in the courts are also high. In order to expedite the disposal of such pending cases, the State Governments have been advised to set up Special Courts depending upon the workload.

A comprehensive legislation entitled, 'The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 1988' has also been brought into force with effect from 29th May 1989, *inter alia*, providing for constitution of special courts and death penalty for certain offences after previous conviction, etc. The offences have also been made cognizable and non-bailable.

Big dams

2970. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Geologists have accepted that building of big dams in a seismically prone zones has disastrous consequences;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Kovna dam has suffered more than 400 earthquake since it was constructed in 1963 and that in 1967 a large number of persons died in an earthquake caused in the dam;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a study on Reservoir inducted Seismicity (RIS) ordered by the Ministry of Environment is yet to be completed even though the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Dam has gone far ahead;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government contemplate any shift in its policy with regard to the construction of big dams in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) About 399 tremors of magnitude of three or more on the Richter scale were felt until occurrence of the event of the major earthquake in December 1967 in which about 180 people died.

(c) and (d). Studies on seismic coefficients for the design of the Sardar Sarovar Dam were completed in 1981 and the designs finalised accordingly before commencing the construction. A follow up action for setting up of seismological monitoring stations has been initiated.

(e) the size of hydraulic structures if determined by number of factors like hydrology, topography, geological conditions, farmer's needs, environmental considerations and economic viability of the project. All these factors are taken into account before a project is considered for implementation.

Thefts incidents in running trains

2971. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of rise/fall in the theft incidents in the running trains at the end of 1988 and from January, 1989 till date as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year;